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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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GRAHAM AND JAMES
600 HANSEN WAY
PALO ALTO CA 94304-1043

EXAMINER
BASHORE,W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2776	6

DATE MAILED:
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Feb 10, 2000_

☒ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under _Ex parte Quayle_ 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____3___ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) _1-5 and 8-19_ _____ is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) _1-5 and 8-19_ _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

    ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

        ☐ received.

        ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

        ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    *Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: amendment originally mailed on 8/6/1999,

said amendment is assigned an adjusted filing date of 2/10/2000 based upon a remailing of said

amendment with proof of original mailing date attached.

2.   Amendment is filed based upon application filed on 4/9/1997.

4.   The objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) has been withdrawn in view of the

amendment.

5.   The objection to the specification has been withdrawn in view of the amendment.

6.   The rejections of claims 3 and 7 under 35 USC 112 first paragraph, have been withdrawn

in view of the amendment.

7.   The rejections of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 under 35 USC 112 second paragraph, have been

withdrawn in view of the amendment.

8.   Claims 1-5, 8-19 are pending in this case. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 10-

19 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 12 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9.   **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all**

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10.   **Claims 1-5, 8-9 remain rejected, and newly added claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.**

103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. (hereinafter Yamashita), U.S. Patent No.

5,555,362 issued September 1996, in view of BORLAND, QUATTRO PRO User's Guide

(hereinafter Quattro Pro), Borland International, 1992 pp.77, 121-122, 129, and Lemay, Teach

Yourself Web Publishing with HTML in a Week (hereinafter Lemay), Sams Publishing, 1995

pp.306, 346, 348.

With respect to independent claim 1:

As seen FIG I and in page 3, Yamashita teaches a method of using vertical and horizontal

separators to perform layout area segmentation comprising:

(1) Input unit I A (including Image input unit 2, Command and data input unit 5 and Input

judgement unit 6).

(2) Processing unit 1B.

(3) Record unit 1 C.

(4) Output unit 1 D.

A receiving step is shown FIG I Reference I A, Display step is shown FIG I Reference I D. As

seen in page 3 lines I I to 14 "The common and data by which the user executes various

processing are selected and input by command and data input units 5 using such as mouse sent to

corresponding section of the processing units I B through the input judgement unit 6". The split

determining step is shown where the judgement unit determines the further splits needed, then

the processing unit I B and record unit I C perform the area segmentation. The determining step is

shown in page 5 lines 9 to 18 "If a vertical separator 37 for segmenting the whole of an image

excluding the image area into several areas is found, the image is further segmented by using the

separator 37. Then, if a horizontal separator 38 capable of segmenting each area into several

areas is again found. It is further segmented into small areas by using separator. Thus the whole

image is segmented into area groups constituting a tree structure by repeating recursive

segmentation, while alternately using the vertical and horizontal separators.", and in lines 41 to 42

"The results of image segmentation are displayed in an image window 50 of display unit",

Yamashita does not disclose a web page. However, Lemay shows many web page editors

and converters which offer tools to perform web page design. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention to apply Lemay's tools to Yamashita's

method because of the tools shown by Lemay, teaching us techniques for coding web pages.

With respect to dependent claim 2:

Yamashita teaches a command and data input, and Quattro Pro (p.121-122) shows a user

selecting the print orientation as either Portrait (vertically) or Landscape

(horizontally) by a check box. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Quattro Pro's select indication method to Yamashita's input command, because of Quattro Pro's taught advantage of using a check button instead of an input command, and the inherent directional nature of selective, orientation.

With respect to dependent claim 3:

Quattro Pro p.77 shows a user selecting text font and size. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention to implement Quattro Pro's teaching with Yamashita to lock the size of text, because text size will be fixed when text font style and size are selected.

With respect to dependent claim 4:

Quattro Pro (p.129) teaches a print view button to see an on screen preview of how a document will appear, so a "view table" would have been an obvious addition to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply to Yamashita, because a "view table" is the same as a print view button.

With respect to independent claim 5:

Claim 5 contains the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1, except for the following limitation: "generating an internal representation of the web page where the layout of the web page is primarily by rows or by columns in according with the split determining step". This is

shown by Yamashita on page 4 line 5, "As a result, a layout model is generated by the model

generator unit 7 and the data for the layout model is record in layout storage unit 10", and is

similarly rejected.

With respect to dependent claim 8:

Yamashita teaches a layout model generating step on page 4, lines 8-10, "The layout model is

also displayed on screen display unit 13, which is modified by layout model generation unit 7,

when the user inputs a correction command (step 26)". In addition, Lemay (p.306) teaches the

use of a "submit" button to publish a web page. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Lemay's "submit" button to Yamashita's user

input command, because of Lemay's taught advantage of using an input button instead of an input

command.

With respect to dependent claim 9:

        Yamashita teaches "the layout model is also display on the screen display unit 13, which is

modified by the layout generation unit 7, when the user inputs correction command". In addition,

Lemay (p.348) teaches the use of a "test" button to preview your work. It would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the "test" button of Lemay to

Yamashita's user input common, because of Lemay's taught advantage of using an input button

instead of an input command.

In regard to independent claim 10:

Claim 10 reflects the system comprising computer readable instructions used for

performing the methods as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected as such (please see amended claim

1 lines 4-7; compare with claim 10 lines 2-4).

In regard to independent claim 11:

Claim 11 reflects the computer program product comprising computer readable instructions

used for performing the methods as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected as such (please see

amended claim 1 lines 4-7; compare with claim 11 lines 4-7).

In regard to independent claim 12:

Claim 12 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 10, and is

rejected as such (please see claim 10 lines 2-4; compare with claim 12 lines 2-5)..

In regard to dependent claim 13:

Claim 13 reflects the system comprising computer readable instructions used for performing

the methods as claimed in claim 2, and is rejected as such.

In regard to dependent claim 14:

Yamashita teaches a method whereby a default parameter set is previously defined with respect to an image layout set, for the purpose of considering varying features of each image (please see Yamashita column 7 lines 22-29; compare with claim 14). Claim 14 would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Yamashita, because of Yamashita's taught advantage of default parameters, which is in turn an example of a segmented image layout system incorporating pre-defined parameters directed to the presentation of each image , as taught by Yamashita.

In regard to dependent claim 15:

With reference to the rejection of claim 12, Yamashita teaches a system whereby a layout model is generated, the segmentation of which is dependent upon turns of a node tree structure hierarchy (please see Yamashita column 9 lines 10-15). Yamashita also teaches the inclusion of an imaginary node to automatically change child node arrangements to either vertical, or horizontal directions (please see Yamashita column 9 lines 56-63; compare with claim 15). Claim 15 would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Yamashita, because of Yamashita's taught advantage of manually modifying a layout model, providing a way to forcibly change a layout structure (please see Yamashita column 9 lines 60-63).

In regard to dependent claims 16 and 17:

Yamashita teaches a system whereby an address book is segmented into areas by a vertical

separator, the resulting layout model results in a document consisting of four columns, and

horizontal area segmentation results in a layout of rows (please see Yamashita column 9 lines

20-28, 48-50, Figure 18(A-C); compare with claims 16 and 17). Claims 16 and 17 would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Yamashita,

because of Yamashita's taught advantage of row/column representation, which in turn are

examples of directional layouts of a displayed address book as taught by Yamashita.

In regard to dependent claim 18:

Claim 18 reflects the system comprising computer readable instructions used for performing

the methods as claimed in claim 4, and is rejected as such.

11.   **Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita,**

Quattro Pro, and Lemay as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Oliver, D. et

al., Netscape 3 Unleashed (hereinafter Netscape), 1996 Sams.net Publishing, pp.408-413.

In regard to dependent claim 19:

Yamashita teaches a system whereby a layout model is generated, the segmentation of

which is dependent upon turns of a node tree structure hierarchy (please see Yamashita column 9

lines 10-15). Yamashita does not specifically teach the specific limitation of frame inclusion with

independent split determination per frame, within Yamashita's invention. However, Netscape

teaches a system of frames, whereby two separate documents are displayed in its own frame of a

browser (please see Netscape p.410 Figure 22.10.; compare with claim 19). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the document

frames system of Netscape to the system of Yamashita, because of Netscape's taught advantage

of frames incorporating independent documents, providing simultaneous display of multiple

documents to the segmentation system as taught by Yamashita.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/10/2000 with respect to claims 10-19 have been carefully

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 2/10/2000 have been fully and carefully considered, but they

are not persuasive.

On pages 5-6 of the amendment, Applicant argues that none of the references cited by the

Examiner teach and/or suggest "determining a primary split direction for the web page; and

determining splits in the primary split direction for the web page". The Examiner respectively

disagrees. Yamashita is cited as a primary reference by the Examiner because it contains many

elements cited both in the claims, and in Applicant's specification. Yamashita teaches the

extraction of document information to hierarchically express the relationship between document

objects. This hierarchical tree is then used to layout each object of a document image. The vertical and horizontal directional segmentations (splits) are determined (and automatically displayed) by turns, as the depth of the hierarchical tree increases (Please see Yamashita column 9 lines 10-20). This directional layout can be manually altered by a user, or though a default parameter set.

The added limitations of text size locking, view tables, and print orientations are taught by Quattro Pro. Quattro Pro is relevant art because it deals with the manipulation and display of data regarding analyzed documents. In addition, the added limitations of web pages including frames, and print previews are taught by Lemay and Netscape, which are relevant art for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Conclusion

12.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: **King et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,956,737 issued September 1999** (especially with reference to Figures 26A-26H, and 27A-27E).

13.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** In addition, Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejections regarding claims 10-19 presented in this Office action. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

14.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to William Bashore whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5807**. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on **(703) 305-4713**. The fax number to this art unit is

(703) 308-6606.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be

directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.

15.   **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
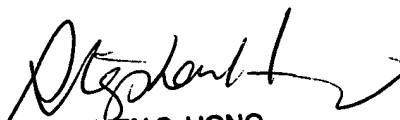Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)
or:
(703) 305-9724 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).**

W.L.B.
3/15/2000

STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER